[23rd February 1961

Influenza

* 71 *Q.*—SRI T. P. SRINIVASAVARADAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether Influenza was prevalent in the City of Madras in September or October, 1960; and

(*b*) if so, the steps taken by the Government to combat the spread of Influenza?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : (*a*) Influenza was not prevalent in an epidemic form but cases of fever with cold were prevalent due to change in climatic conditions.

(*b*) No special steps were considered necessary.

SRI T. P. SRINIVASAVARADAN : May I know whether expert advice was taken on this matter and whether the expert said that it was not influenza but only ordinary fever?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : There were only cases of ordinary fever with cold. The general diagonosis was influenza.

SRI T. P. SRINIVASAVARADAN : Was it the opinion of doctors in Government hospitals or was it the opinion of private doctors that it was not influenza but only ordinary fever?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : Both kinds of doctors.

SRI T. P. SRINIVASAVARADAN : It has become an annual visitation in the recent years. May I know what steps the experts have suggested to the Government to take to eradicate once and for all this kind of fever? Even if it is only ordinary fever, we find it has become an annual visitation.

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : I have not got the doctor's opinion. But as a layman, I may say, to build up resistance to such conditions is the best remedy. I may also inform the hon. Member that there was no case of death in spite of the fact that there were so many cases of attack. In September 885 cases and in October 819 cases were treated in the Government Hospital and 900 and odd and 11,000 and odd respectively in the Corporation Dispensaries.

SRI T. P. SRINIVASAVARADAN : When there were so many cases of attack, does the Hon. Minister still hold that it was not in the form of epidemic, i.e., influenza?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : Influenza was not prevalent in epidemic form so as to result in many fatal cases. The disease was loosely called influenza. It was only fever with cold. That was the diagonosis.

DR. A. SREENIVASAN : Are the Government making use of the anti-influenza vaccine in this State?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : It is used in real cases of influenza. In the particular cases, it was not probably used.